

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated January 10, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 11, 20, 21, 23-26, 29-34, 37, 40-43 and 45 are rejected and claims 44 and 46 are objected by the Examiner. With this response, claims 11, 29 and 43 have been amended and claims 44 and 46 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. Claims 11, 20, 21, 23-26, 29-34, 37, 40-43 and 45 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, claim 43 is objected to because of the informalities. Applicants have amended claim 43 to correct the issue. Accordingly, the objection is overcome. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 44 and 46 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Based on the amendments above, Applicant submits that all the claims are now in condition for allowance for reasons stated below. Accordingly, the objected claims 44 and 46 have been canceled to be included in claims 11 and 29, respectively.

In the Office Action, claims 11, 37 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0011299 to Kim(hereafter “Kim”). Claims 20-21, 23-26, 29-34 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0067117 to Im (hereafter “Im”). Claims 11, 20-22, 24, 26, 29-34, 37, 40-42 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,079,477 to Yamamoto(hereafter “Yamamoto”).

The rejections of claims 11, 20, 21, 23-26, 29-34, 37, 40-43 and 45 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 44 has been canceled and claim 11 has been amended to incorporate most of the limitations of canceled claim 44. Claim 11 is allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “wherein the first angled surface extends from an upper surface portion of the mask that defines its respective hole toward an interior portion of its respective hole, and the second angled surface extends from a distal end of the first angled surface to a lower surface portion of the mask that defines its respective hole.”

Claim 46 has been canceled and claim 29 has been amended to incorporate most of the limitations of canceled claim 46. Claim 29 is allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “wherein the first angled surface extends uniformly along an entire upper inner circumferential edge of each of the plurality of strip-type slots, and the second angled surface extends uniformly along an entire lower inner circumferential edge of each of the plurality of strip-type slots.”

None of the cited references including Kim, Im and Yamamoto, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 and its dependent claims 37 and 42-43 and claim 29 and its dependent claims 20-21, 23-26, 30-34, 40-41 and 45 are allowable over the cited references.

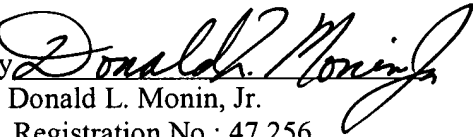
CONCLUSION

Applicant believes the foregoing amendment and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-4323. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Dated: April 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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